

SPOOKY STORY TIME

By Aura Ta'var

37 ABY

"What are you thinking? First you bring me out here in the middle of nowhere in a forest and then you tell me we can take a break from our training exercises..." asked Irhan suspiciously.

"Nothing, nothing..." Aura replied innocently.

"Yeah right. You know, you scare me sometimes."

"A master's prerogative," she said with a smirk before continuing. "Anyways, shouldn't you be more scared of the PorgRex? It's all hallow's space eve, after all?"

"Please, I'm too old to be scared of make believe monsters. Besides, their are very real ones I suspect we'll end up meeting before we go back home."

"Or maybe you've already met them," she replied enigmatically.

"Uh, what do you mean?"

"Let me tell you a story."

"Alright, master. I'm listening."

"Long ago, there was a young Jedi who lived in a small outer rim colony. Everyday the young Jedi would wake up, meditate, and then go about his daily chores, using their abilities with the Force to help out the community. Life was normal until one day the porgs started to disappear from their pens."

"Ugh. Porgs again. What's up with your fascination with porgs?"

"They're delicious. Now shush and listen before I make you run laps." Aura paused for a moment before continuing.

"Anyways, day after day the porgs disappeared. No one knew where they had gone to but at night the people would see odd lights along the treeline, watching everyone as they moved. No one thought much of it until a local villager went missing. It was a boy who loved birbs and wanted to find his favorite porg named Porkins. Distraught, the village asked the young Jedi to help find him."

"This isn't scary," remarked her apprentice.

"So, the young Jedi went off to search in the woods for the boy. The young Jedi looked around every tree and nook, using the Force to guide him. He found nothing but ordinary porgs and the boy was simply playing with them. Even when the young Jedi stayed up all night, all was safe within the forest. But yet, the villagers kept stumbling upon horrible things. Someone eventually found a circle of porgs chanting together at night while their porg friends sacrificed themselves one by one. Some claimed they could hear Darth Jar Jar laughing in the distance."

"Darth Jar Jar isn't real..." remarked Irhan.

"The Villagers immediately called the young Jedi to the scene but by the time the young Jedi arrived all traces of the porgs had vanished as had the proof of their ceremony. Pictures of them taken by eye-witnesses were inconclusive. Flummoxed, the young Jedi went back home and the porg rituals came back except this time a massive porg showed up instead of Darth Jar Jar. The villagers fled to the young Jedi one more, describing its sharp canines and red glowing eyes. By the time the young Jedi had arrived though all signs of it were gone. Frustrated, the villagers took up arms and vowed to hunt it down."

"They better not bring the young Jedi into this. Jedi don't hunt down animals, do they?" asked Irhan.

"You'll see. So they go to hunt what they had decided to call the PorgRex but it only showed up at night when the young Jedi wasn't looking for it."

"Maybe he can use the Force to find it?"

"You'll see, apprentice. As luck would have it, one day an old woman spotted the young Jedi sleepwalking, mumbling in his sleep about porgs. As he did so, the PorgRex was terrorizing the village from afar. Frightened, the woman shook the young Jedi awake. The moment the Jedi's eyes opened the PorgRex disappeared."

"That's not how the Force works, is it?" Irhan wondered out loud, not able to keep the concern out of his voice.

"The town immediately confronted the young Jedi, angry and bewildered. The Jedi didn't know what to say. How was he to control how he slept? People suggested a variety of not so comfortable solutions until as luck would have it their old Jedi master came back to town. The Jedi master shook his head and reminded him that all he needed to do was run lots and lots of laps each day. It would not only ensure sound sleep but he also needed to increase his stamina. The village was grateful and the PorgRex only showed up when the young Jedi skimped on his training. The end.

“That’s not how the Force works, Master. You’re just trying to get me to run more laps,” Irhan replied grumpily.

“Suit yourself,” Aura replied with a shrug, leaving her apprentice to his mystery.